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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 17 AUGUST 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued between 1 and 15 August 1998 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

Your intervention is requested with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Permanent Representative

Annex

Violations of Iraq's airspace and damage caused, 1-15 August 1998

1. In the northern region 145 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres over the following cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Irbil, Tall Afar, Rawanduz, Sinjar, Ayn Zalah, Khidr and Baibo.

2. In the southern region 566 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Shinafiyah, Rumaythah, Basrah, Hayy, Shatrah, Amarah, Qal'at Sukkar, Suq al-Shuyukh, Hamzah, Maymunah, Abu Sukhayr, Rifa'i, Najaf, Qal'at Salih, Ali al-Sharqi, Nu'maniyah, Kut and Afak.

3. Nine violations were committed by TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at altitudes of 20,000 metres and at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour.

4. At 1100, 1106 and 1800 hours on 4 August 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

5. At 1044, 1210, 1320 and 1325 hours on 5 August 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

6. At 1113 hours on 6 August 1998 two United States aircraft dropped 10 heat flares on the town of Tall Kayf in Ninawa Governorate.

7. At 1052 hours on 9 August 1998 a United States formation broke the sound barrier over Tall Afar in Ninawa Governorate.

8. At 1110 hours on 11 August 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.